

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
ADVISORY COMMITTEE CHARTER**

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

1. AUTHORITY AND PURPOSE. This charter renews the Local Government Advisory Committee, in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), 5 U.S.C. App. 2 § 9(c). It is determined that establishment of this Committee is in the public interest and supports EPA in performing its duties and responsibilities under miscellaneous statutes and as a general means of complying with Executive Orders 12866, 12875, and 12862. The purpose of the Committee is to advise, consult with, and make recommendations to the Administrator of EPA on matters related to the implementation of Federal environmental requirements by local governments.

2. SCOPE OF ACTIVITY. The Committee will identify and make recommendations to improve the implementation of environmental programs by local governments. Such recommendations could include, for example, changes in the regulatory planning and development process to involve local governments more effectively; changes needed to allow flexibility to accommodate local needs without compromising environmental performance, accountability, or fairness; and ways in which EPA and states can help local governments strengthen their capacity to promote environmental quality, including public access and community right to know. The Committee may recommend projects to help local governments deal with the challenge of financing environmental protection, identify ways to encourage innovation by local governments, and explore ways to speed dissemination of new environmental protection techniques and technologies among local governments.

3. FUNCTIONS. The Committee's function is to make recommendations concerning development, implementation and evaluation of Agency policies, procedures, practices, and projects designed to improve the implementation of environmental programs by local governments; analysis of the difficulties local governments experience implementing environmental regulations; and clarification of the environmental consequences of these difficulties.

4. COMPOSITION. Members of the Committee will be appointed by the EPA Deputy Administrator, and the Chair will be selected from among the members. Members will represent the following segments of the population in appropriate mix and balance to provide the required range of expertise, geographic distribution, and population size:

Local and State Officials

Public and Environmental Interest Groups

Federal Executive and Congressional Agencies and Offices

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Appropriate members will be selected and appointed initially for a two-year term and may be reappointed. The Committee is authorized to form subcommittees for any purpose consistent with this Charter. Such subcommittees will report back to the full Committee and are subject to the requirements of FACA. Subcommittees have no authority to make decisions on behalf of the full Committee nor can they report directly to the Agency.

EPA may pay travel and per diem expenses when necessary and appropriate. The estimated annual operating cost for the Committee and subcommittees is approximately \$400,000, which includes three work years of staff support.

5. MEETINGS. A full-time or permanent part-time officer or employee of the Agency will serve as a Designated Federal Officer (DFO) and will be present at all meetings. The DFO is authorized to adjourn any meeting whenever it is determined to be in the public interest to do so. Meetings will be held as necessary, at the call of the Chairperson, with an agenda approved in advance by the DFO. Committee and subcommittee meetings will be called, announced, and held in accordance with the EPA Committee Management Manual. This manual contains the Agency's policies and procedures for implementing FACA. Among other things, FACA requires open meetings and an opportunity for interested persons to file written comments before or after meetings, or to make oral statements to the Committee as permitted by the Committee's guidelines to the extent that time permits.

6. DURATION. The Committee will be needed on a continuing basis and may be renewed beyond this two-year period, as authorized in accordance with Section 14 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

December 2, 1997
Agency Approval Date

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GSA Consultation Date

January 16, 1998
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